

Rare Kashmīr Coins.—By CHAS. J. RODGERS, *Honorary Numismatist to the Government of India, Honorary Member of the Numismatic Society of London, &c.*

(With Plate VI.)

[Read May, 1896.]

It is now several years, since I published my “Copper Coins of the Mahārājas and Sultāns of Kashmīr.” Since then I have seen many thousands more of their coins. Further acquaintance with them has not given me more exalted ideas of the art of the Kāshmirīs. They certainly were the worst die-sinkers in the world. But die-sinkers are only mechanics, and from mechanics oppressed as were those whose homes were in Kashmīr, much could not be expected. I have not troubled myself much about getting Kashmīr novelties. Those drawn in the accompanying plate are almost the only new things I have seen in seventeen years. They are as follows:—

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| (1) | حسن شاه
۸۷۶ | (876 H.) | السلطان | |
| (2) | سري نگر | (Sirinagar) | ۴ - الهه
اذر | (4-Ilahī) |
| (3) | السلطان الا عظم
اسلام شاه | | سبع
ضرب كشمير | (95) 7 H.
(Kashmīr) |
| (4) | यस स्वर | | देव | |
| (5) | ग (कन) | | — | |
| (6) | ۴۰ الهه
امردار | (40th Ilahī.) | سري نگر
ضرب | (Sirinagar) |
| (7) | حیدرو شاه
السلطان | | نائب خلیفه الرحمن | not full |

(8)	حیدر شاہ السلطان		نائب خلیفہ انگرہمن full.	
(9)	السلطان ۸۷۴	(874 H.)	do. ۸۷۴	(874 H.)
(10)	حسن شاہ		ضرب السلطان	
(11)	نصیر الدین حسین باد شاہ		یک ہفتاد و ۹۷۱ نہ صد سندہ	(971 H., in words and figures.)
(12)	فتح شاہ		شہور	
(13)	محمد السلطان		السلطان ضرب	
(14)	اعظم محمد جلال الدین اکبر		ضرب کشمیر ۹۹۴	(Kashmīr 994 H.)

These coins call for but few remarks. The letters under some show their ownership when they were drawn. S.=Mrs. Stoker, G.=General Gosset, C.B., K.=L. White King, Esq., F.S.A.; R.=Rodgers. It will be seen that Nos. 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 are halves of such coins as Nos. 3 and 11. Each king seems to have had a style of his own on these halves. These halves are seldom met with. There are none of them in the British Museum Catalogue, but in the Lahore Catalogue of my collection are several.

No. 3 is a copper coin of Islām Shāh Sūrī. This is the second one I have seen. He was never king in Kashmīr, as I have shown in my paper on the square silver coins of the Sultāns of Kashmīr. His coins are evidence of the conspiracy against the then ruler of Kashmīr, Mirzā Haidar Doghlat, the author of the Tārīkh-i-Rashidī.

No. 4, is a coin of Yasaskara. In my paper on the "Copper Coins of the Mahārājas of Kashmīr" I gave a coin on which the name is spelt Yaskara यस्कर. Both coins are exceedingly rare.

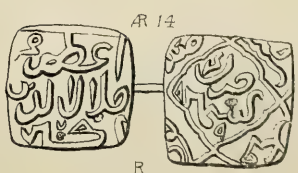
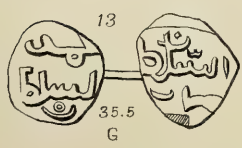
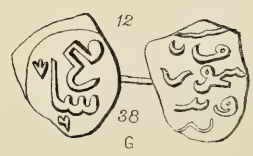
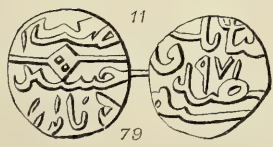
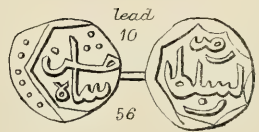
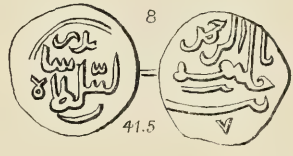
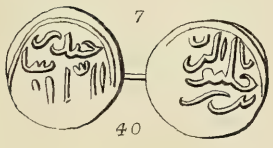
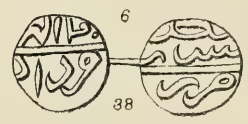
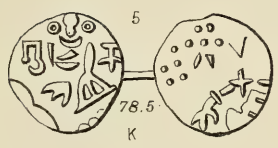
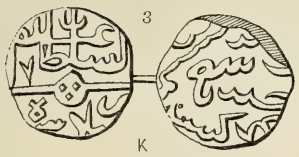
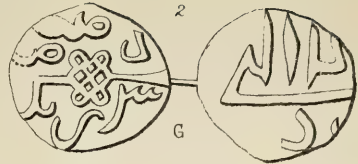
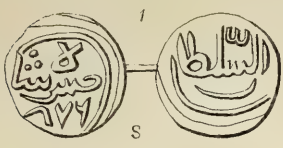
No. 5 is, I am inclined to think, a coin of Gulhana. I obtained

the coin of this man, given in General Sir A. Cunningham's *Mediæval Coins of India*, and this also along with No. 4, for Mr. King.

The dates 874 and 876 indicate the dates of Ḥaidar Shāh and his son Ḥasan Shāh respectively. I have seen these dates so often on the coins of these kings, that we must accept them as correct. I had a lovely gold mohur of Ḥasan Shāh son of Ḥaidar Shāh struck in Kashmir in 876 H. The silver coins, too, given in my paper, bear these two dates. I do not think that they would, unless these were the actual dates when they were reigning.

No. 14 is a coin of Akbar's dated 994 H., which must be about the date of the final conquest of Kashmir by Akbar's troops. I have seen Akbar's Kashmir coins struck as early as 965, and one dated 987 H. These must be either complimentary coins, or else coins struck by factions who were plotting against their rulers and desirous of obtaining Akbar for their king.

I should like to see a complete collection of Kashmir coins in some Indian Museum. They are not of much value, as I have shown elsewhere, for the assistance they render in fixing the chronology, but they are at any rate evidence of what was going on in Kashmir, and of its condition and of the state of art. Of course visitors to Kashmir purchase coins amongst other curiosities in the valley. Just lately I have received from one of these purchasers a list of the names of the kings of Kashmir whose coins he had obtained. There were twenty of them, and not one was the name of a Kashmir Rājā or Sultān. This shows how visitors are cheated. Lately, however, I had sent to me from the mint at Jammū over 6,000 coins to classify and value. They were real things, and if I have time before I leave India, I may send the Society an abstract of what I had then before me. It was a thorough numismatic feast, and I have not yet quite recovered from it.



C. J. Rodgers del

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